

# North Shore News-Letter.

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## EDITORIALS

### THE FUTURE MAN

Theodore Roosevelt said: "If boys and girls are trained merely in literary accomplishments to the total exclusion of industrial, manual, and technical training, the tendency is to unfit them for industrial work, and to make them reluctant to go into it, or unfitted to do well if they go into it."

The future of this country hangs upon the question of how we fit the boys for life. We have gone from one extreme to the other in schooling, from the three R's to a curriculum overloaded with useless stuff in the name of education. We've ceased to make the pupil a thinking being. We stuff him full of non-essential facts by the lecture process and he isn't supposed to think for himself—in fact he hasn't time to think. We are creating parrots that can chatter but not men that can reason things out or accomplish useful things after they graduate.

Our school system is bad, very bad. This applies to country and city schools alike, to the little red schoolhouse and the big university. And where the system is bad the products are inferior.

Oh yes, the high school graduate knows a whole lot of things—in a general sort of way. The college graduate is much the same. But the poor fellows have to start at the bottom to get a job. They have a hard time getting into the notion of working. They have lived without it, they have been given to understand that the world is just waiting for them to leave school so as to give them a salary. The factories, the wholesale houses, the railroads, the mines, the trades everywhere want men—not as head clerks, not as "billed shirt" employees but as workmen in the ranks—men who will begin at the bottom.

And the high school boy and the college graduate isn't hankering for that kind of a job. When in school like as not he was a "frat." He lost all his democratic notions and is unfit to associate with the "common herd." He has been imbued with the notion that he belongs to the upper set—that working men are of the lower class—hence he is not going to be one of them.

To such the only course open is the law, medicine, ministry, or some of the soft middlemen's jobs—and the world is filling up with this class because the schools are turning them out at an alarming rate. There is an actual dearth of skilled laborers in every walk of life. The remedy is to revise our school system right speedily and educate the future man in agriculture, mechanics, in things useful and needed. We've got to create anew the feeling of democracy we've got to put down the feeling of fraternity (as this term applies in schools), we've got to raise up a new manhood, with a desire to do useful work, with ability to get into the class of producers. We are overrun with middlemen, as we are overrun with rats. We want a new race—a productive race rather than destructive, and it is up to the common schools to bring this about.

### THE PROPENSITY TO STEAL

The moral tone of a country is pretty low when such universal tolerance of petty stealing is looked upon as good business. Turn where you will, you come face to face with theft. Let us analyze the situation.

Scales have long been manufactured that guarantee that the butcher can sell meat for the same price he pays for it and make six per cent profit. That is, the selling scales cheat the purchaser, that's all. The spring balance scales used in stores by ice men, by junk buyers, are so easily "fixed" that the consumer is lucky indeed who gets what he pays for, or gets paid for all he sell.

Scales may be honest—built to weigh correctly, but in the hands of unscrupulous merchants they weigh a few ounces off every time.

This is done by attaching weights to the scale beam by means of a wire running beneath the counter. Or a small wire is inserted into the scale so the beam will be influenced a few pounds. This is done on the scales of stock buyers, hay and grain dealers, and was the way the sugar trust stole million of dollars from the government. It is simply a case of honesty or dishonesty on the part of the one who does the weighing.

In the matter of measures there are many ways of stealing from the purchaser. The standard bushel, peck, etc., contains so many cubic inches. It makes a big difference what form the measure assumes whether or not the purchaser is cheated. Take for instance a peck measure so commonly used in grocery stores. It is merely a long tin cylinder without a bottom, used in measuring potatoes, apples, etc., into paper bags. The measure may contain sufficient cubic inches to be accurate if small grain were being measured, but when it comes to potatoes and apples a small cylinder will not hold a peck of bulky stuff like that. There is too much waste space. Try it.

Quart and gallon measures are often dented so as to cheat the buyer. Measures often have false bottoms. Berry boxes, grape and peach baskets are of varying size. So with all sorts of package goods there should be a standard apple box with weight and number of apples marked thereon.

The merchant always puts the wrapping paper in with the goods. When the farmer sells a load of grain or hay he expects the buyer to pay for full weight. And not a few farmers will dampen the grain or hay so it will weigh more. Some water the milk so it will bring more money. Some fill hogs with sand and will just before passing them over the scales.

There is stealing all along the line, and the dishonest farmer is as guilty as the dishonest merchant, though he hasn't the same opportunity.

We teach stealing to our children. At the circus and fair ticket window we make them crouch

down so as to pass on half fare. We chuckle if the conductor misses taking the car fare. We allow them to keep it if some one makes a mistake and hands back too much change.

Of course we should legislate so as to have inspectors of weights and measures as well as of milk and food stuff. But we should teach out and out honesty at home.

### BORROWING TROUBLE.

Of all the absurdities extant, surely to "borrow trouble" is the greatest.

The trouble borrowers have no enjoyment; it seems as though the word was omitted from their vocabulary their life being one ceaseless moan, constant looking forward to that impending doom which is to overtake them.

If a cyclone suddenly springs up a cyclone may be expected—all indications of the weather prophet not withstanding—or does the sky become overcast, a thunderstorm is at hand.

Then there are various domestic forebodings: from a mild to a severe form—probably a case of measles in the next square, another case of whooping-cough in the next street.

There is a large class of people in constant trouble and anxiety about their health, although the same amount of strength in a cheerful person would be taken as an indication of healthfulness.

But these trouble borrowers are always expecting disorders of every kind—and if they do not actually come, they are sick all the same—of disappointment.

Thousands of people are dying every year of this constant suspicion of their health, while others settle down into a gloomy state from forebodings of trouble to come. They do not know why it is they are always expecting something to happen. A bird flies in at the window, a salt cellar up sets on the table, a cricket chirps on the hearth, they shiver and actually expect a messenger to rush in with evil tidings.

What good does fretting do? It increases only with indulgence, like anger or appetite. It endangers one's temper, excites unpleasant feelings toward everybody and confuses the mind. It affects the whole person, unfitting one for the proper completion of the work the trifling interruption or disturbance of which started the fretful life.

Suppose things go wrong today; the "tomorrows" are coming, in which to try again, and the thing is not worth clouding your own spirit and those around you, injuring yourself and others physically—for the mind affects the body—for such a trifle.

### A BEAUTIFUL LIFE

A beautiful life is an honest life. A life of truthfulness, of nobility of the soul and a life of devotion to our loved ones here and to God who created us. Life indeed, is but a river running with rapidly, onward, onward, ever on. It runs, alas! to swiftly. We have not one moment in which to hesitate or spend in idleness. We should place a guard on our every-day actions, as we travel along life's journey. Just one unkind word can never be recalled; how much better had it never been spoken. Kind words! How little they cost, and yet how dear! Soft words soften the soul, Words harsh and angry kindle the fire of wrath and vengeance. Cold words chill while hot ones create ire and discord. There are vain words,

idle words, silly words, spiteful words and a multitude of others to guard against. By saying daily to imitate Him who had not where to lay his head only can we live a beautiful life.

### THE AMERICAN BOY.

Is it at all strange that some of the qualities and virtues which belonged to our women in an older day are now being transferred to the opposite sex? Can we marvel at the production of self-sacrificing American boys, who go to work as soon as he has finished at the high school, or even at the grammar school, and regularly puts a share of his wages into the family fund that is sending Edith or Mabel to Vassar or Bryn Mawr? Certainly the living American boy of eighteen or twenty measures well up in the scale of merit with any youngster that the world has yet produced, says the New York Mail. We hear a good deal of complaint about his cigarette smoking, and his rough ways and impertinence, and other defects; but if his dissatisfactions were to be compared with the heavy drinking and lawless propensities of the smart youth of 50 years ago, he would be found to be rather a model of conduct than otherwise. He is better, not worse, than his father was at the same age. And he is more thoroughly imbued with the notion that it is his duty in life to be competent, and strong, and productive, than any other boy who ever looked out upon the great world with eagle eyes.

The official announcement that the death rate in the United States last year dropped to 15 per 1,000 of population is indicative of the increasing healthfulness of the country. With the single exception of Great Britain, which surpasses this nation by a fraction, the United States now has the lowest death rate of any country in the world. While the decrease is attributed largely to the absence of grave epidemics, the facts are highly creditable and show that we are making notable progress in everything pertaining to hygiene. The crusades against the "white plague" and other ailments which have contributed greatly to the mortality lists are evidences of effective co-operation on the part of beneficence and sanitary science.

American potatoes have won a notable victory. For thirty-five years they have been barred out of France on the ground that many of them were affected by a disease that might contaminate the French tubers. As a matter of fact American potatoes are about as healthy as any that are grown. The French scientists, having investigated the matter thoroughly, have concluded that there is no good ground for exclusion, and American potatoes will be admitted freely. As the French potato crop is poor this year such action assures an important addition to the food supply.

It may be that the young women of the west are turning eastward, where more sedate habits prevail; and it may also be that the young women of the east no longer have the same desire to go west that they did when a possible "Virginian" was waiting at every ranch to make romantic love to visitors. The fact of the matter is that school-teachers are now very much in demand all over the country, says the St. Louis Times. The number of schools and instructors is constantly increasing, and there are posts at home for those who like the work of teaching, and who are properly equipped for it.

New Jersey is moving for the construction of a ship canal across the state as a link in the proposed coastal waterway between Boston and Florida. Thus a new field of endeavor is likely to be opened for the enterprising New Jersey mosquito.

That Frenchman who ascended in an aeroplane to the height of 9,123 feet and froze his carburetor should be allowed to keep his altitude record unbroken. Frost bites achieved in high altitudes add nothing to the joy of the human race.

A magazine writer explains that aviation in dreams is due to functional disturbances of a slight nature. Aviation in real life is the produce of genius and courage.

### AMERICAN PHILANTHROPY.

The celebration of the centenary of the University of Berlin was a great occasion for Germany and its capital. It was also an interesting occasion for the scholars and thinkers of the whole world, says the Chicago Record-Herald. The United States participated in the ceremonies, and in more ways than one. What was Berlin a century ago and what is it today? What was Germany then and what now—politically, industrially, intellectually? Modern Germany owes everything to education and organization to science and method, the very things fostered by its universities and schools. They have fought for freedom of teaching and have secured it, and now the emperor himself takes a keen interest in their efficiency and strength. To improve the facilities in teaching natural science the Kaiser, by personal effort and solicitation, secured a fund of \$2,500,000 for Berlin university. It is said that he had American generosity to higher education as his inspiration and his leading argument. He seems to have kept a record of American gifts and endowments and to have improved every opportunity to let his wealthy friends know that a little emulation, a little "Americanism" in that direction, would be pleasing and quite consistent with patriotism.

The inevitable predictions as to the character of the coming winter are being made. And it was just as inevitable that they should disagree. From one source we have the announcement that wild animals are putting on an extra heavy coat of fur in preparation for exceptional cold. Of course the farmer who observes that the husks on the maturing corn are unusually thick, presaging a winter of more than usual frigidities, has been heard from. And so forth and so on as regards the chilly side of the question. But on the other hand "weather sharps" have noted that conditions prevailing about the time the sun "crosses the line" foreshadow a mild winter. All of which may be put down for what it is worth, in the calm assurance that nature will run the cold-weather program without any assistance from outside.

Americans are not the only ones who engage in the search for lost treasure or unclaimed estates. Very little has come of efforts to find Captain Kidd's loot and other valuables, though no doubt attempts will be continued. And now an association has been formed in England for the purpose of recovering about \$7,000,000 in specie believed to be in the British frigate Lutine, which was wrecked in 1799 and sunk at the entrance to the Zuyder Zee. The association has been incorporated, and doubtless there will be plenty of persons ready to take a chance by investing in the shares. But the probability is that almost any ordinary business venture would bring better returns.

From London comes the announcement of the death of the woman who claimed to be the original of "Little Dorrit," that famous character of Dickens. The lady was entitled to the benefit of the doubt, but it is a fact that similar claims have been made by others. It is also asserted that a brother of the woman who has just died was the original "Tiny Tim," and that he served in part as the model for "Paul Dombey." If all those assertions can be proved it would seem that the family formed a sort of trust for Dickens characters.

The champion fish story, not only of this, but also of many previous seasons, was told lately at a meeting of the American Fisheries Societies. It was to the effect that fishes grow on trees in Alaska. This record triumphantly challenges all comers.

New York has discovered aphanizomenon in the city water pipes, and is scared. Why—does aphanizomenon injure the skin?

The sooner that people with money realize that they cannot beat the customs officials the better it will be for them.

It is unkind of the government to confiscate pictures of money when that is as close as some people can get to it.

And, anyway, we can't see what difference the age of Mother Earth is going to make in the price of "ests."

### COUCH

The most perfect devised for a blanket, able to see the through. If a so much the spent in that. To banish the Debt and death the peace that comes upon you Post. You become once more used to be. Good the room are peep of childhood. Clothes are hanging outlines of a "down the sandy Crusoe and Mar face peeps from It is Faringhea, ing stealthily up er and faster the ing, some fern them all and are the rain drips, monotonous son blank. Next m broken, but the see the old cloth find that the only the room is a ch the little dormer had slept the si found it most re

English owners have lost so many that they believe cause. This cause inclined to suspect. Many will ment as fanciful comparative wear which wireless to play. The answer current does not only confuses the miss their way. rent affects pige. Indeed, it would that wireless tel be the means of gulls than flight

Perhaps if the considerable' pro called automobile be found to have fuddled heads a The menace of fluence of liquor is easily appreciated demonstrated th road are due to istment should insist upon run highways, should heavy penalty, w or drunk.

The problem sometimes appear unemployed to a gentleman much welfare of the w ing in Missouri means to help t were forty unem A farmer came work to all ha looked the jobs consent declined sition. And the of conditions in other localities.

The usual schemes is colla the "lamb" are inary. A specu kind in Connecticut in the bankrupt cured claims of tied. And the fe will be the cha the profit and foolish enough t

Women arriving York from abroad to escape, paying had it made even by the explanat of nonpayment wear.

A German m craze for ragtime to creative work Ragtime? Sound from our past. got his idea from

Los Angeles h an. On the fir patrolled her b of notice.